

**Robert Dinwiddie to George Washington, May 27, 1756,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM GOVERNOR DINWIDDIE.

WILLIAMSBURG May 27th: 1756

SIR

Your two Letters of the 23d: I recd. last Night & note their Contents. I recd. Your Journal relating to the Militia which gives me some surprize to observe their dastardly Behaviour, in deserting & returning Home,¹ I am sorry their Officers had no better Comand over them, & indeed I always was of Opinion they wd. not answer my Intentions in sending them to Winchester. I observe the Council of War held by the Field Officers of the Militia which is very agreeable that none of the Forces were sent to the So.ward, as I have order'd the Militia in Augusta & Albemarle to range the Frontiers to the So.ward.

I dreaded the Desertion of the Militia wou'd be a bad Example to Your Regmt. therefore on Receipt of Your former Letter I wrote to Fredricksburg ordering such of the Militia that had not march'd to Winchester to return to their Countries to make Draughts according to the Act of Assembly; the draughting of them at Winchester is not regular.

I observe by a Court Martial Jas. Thomas, and Henry Campbell were found guilty for desertion to suffer Death, You have enclos'd a Warrant for Campbell, but as Frans. Thomas has been a long time in the Service & formerly behav'd well I remit his Punishmt. let him know it was on Your Intercession & get his Promise for good Behavior for the

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future; Henry Campbell's suffering I think absolutely necessary to deter others from that growing Fault; & I hope hereafter the Men will exert themselves in a regular Conduct, proper Spirit & a due Obedience to their Officers.

I doubt not but Your remaining at Winchester may be more for the Service than going to the Fort, but I desire to know how Affairs go on there, & I doubt not Gov. Innes will do every Thing in his Power for the Service.

I hope the Officers You ordered are at Fksbg by this time, as I believe many of the draughted Men are march'd for that Place.

The Gentln. Associators being Volunteers at their own Expençe, I gave them no Instructions, but recommended them to consult with You what was proper to be done, & as they went with great alacrity I doubt not of ye readiness to do every Thing that may be for the Service of the Country.

I believe the Assembly out of a saving Scheme levied the Troops or Draughts only to Decr. thinking they would not be much wanted in the Winter, but I wish they had been for eighteen Months; I must observe to You that the Draughts in most of the Counties paid Fines rather than go to Wincht, these Fines were given to Volunteers that enlisted & recd. the 10£ these People I think are to be incorporated into Your Regmt. without any Limitation of Time, & I expect the Lieuts. or Commanding Officers in the different Counties distinguish these People from the Others, so that they remain with the Regmt. & if you see it necessary You may give them a Pistole more enlisting Money to confirm them in the Service, for it appears absurd that they should have 10£ in hand besides the Pay for six Months Service; indeed the Act of Assembly is not explicit on that head, but Justice & Reason is plain in Your favour, & I hope You will accordingly be able to enlist them all.

I suspend the Scheme of forming the Regmt. into two Battalions till I see You, when it shall be fix'd in the most eligible Manner, the same Reason in regard to the Forts & the Companies to be appointed to them, & the Vacancies shall at that time be fill'd up. I think

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the building a Fort at Winchtr. absolutely necessary, after the Plan is properly laid down they can be at Work on it when You come here, but Yr. absence must be very short— & Conegochege is also a very proper Place, & I doubt not Ct. Stewart will follow Your directions therein.

I wou'd fain hope on Lord Loudon's arrival that the Order for drawing the Amunitn. & other Stores from Ft. Cumbl'd will be countermanded, as I presume he has a large Train with him, in the mean Time You shou'd endeavour to have sufficient for the Forts already built.

You need not have wrote me to recomend You to the Earl of Loudon—Colo. Ludwell leaves this in a few Days for N York to Complimt. his Lordship on his arrival, by him I write fully to Genl. Abercrombie who is Second in Comd. & my particular Friend, in Your favr. which I think much better than writing directly to his Lordship, as I know the Influence he has with him.

I wish You to order the Pay Mr. to give You an Acct. of the Deductions from the Mens Pay in regard to their Cloathg. that my Supply may be adjusted when You come here—I have 1000 pair of Shoes come in I shall keep them till I see You, if wanted You shall have them

I remain with great Respect Sir Your Friend & hble Servt. ROBT. DINWIDDIE

1 May 8th ... In the evening of this day Captain Dalton, with not only his Volunteers, but Captain Russel and his, with the remaining few of the Militia, came to town. Upon enquiring the reason of this I was answered that Captain Russel and his volunteers had got tired and must needs go home, and that the Militia, which were only 13, were too small to post as I had ordered, as indeed they were. May 9th. Captains Dalton, Russel, with the Volunteers and Militia, set out on their return homewards ; so that there only remains of the Fairfax Militia those who went on to the Branch. May 17th. Some time last night an express from the Branch arrived with letters from Ashby's Fort and Pearsall's Fort informing that a considerable body of Indians were about again and had taken a prisoner. Upon this all the Militia of Louisa and Stafford, save 6 of the first and 8 of the latter deserted—
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